Further, 890 Kms of various stretches on National Highways in Bihar have been proposed for upgradation under National Highways Development Project (Phase-Ill) to be implemented by National Highways Authority of India on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Aparts from this, various stretches of National Highways have been idetified for improvement and included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 in consultation with the Road construction Department of Bihar. The allocation of funds for the year 2005-06 will depend on the requirement, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

Boosting of Maritime Sector

3835. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 year action plan has been drawn up to boost the maritime sector which, reportedly, includes development of national sea waterways and setting up of a Directorate of Ports to supervise to development of ports; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Declaration of port channels as National Sea Waterways in a phased manner beginning with major ports and their development and maintenance through the Government of India funding as also constitution of a Directorate General of Ports are envisaged in the draft Policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport).

Concurrently, the Government as also taken up preparation of the National Maritime Development Programme which would include specific schemes and projects to be taken up over a period of next 10 years. The total investment in the proposed Programme is estimated to be Rs. 1,00,000 crores. The programme is proposed to be implemented through public private partnership. Public investments are planned primarily for creation of common user infrastructure facilities. Private investments are expected in the areas where operations are primarily commercial in nature.

Expansion of Chennai Port

3836. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chennai Port is likely to get second terminal in the next ten months;

(b) the details of this expansion plan for Chennai Port;

(c) the cargo expectations in the next five years for Chennai Port;

(d) whether it is a fact that other ports are not getting adequate funds for their expansion plans; and

(e) the steps proposed to develop other ports on the East Coast?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In principle approval has been conveyed by Government of India on 31.3.2005 for development of second container terminal in Chennai Port at the modernized East Quay and adjoining South Quay-Ill berths with length of 826 m and back up space of 28 hectares. The proposed terminal to be developed on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis is estimated to cost Rs. 491 Crores with capacity of 6 lakhs Twenty Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) per annum from second year of operation. The port is expected to contribute Rs. 100 Crores for developmental works.

(c) Year wise cargo expectations in the next 5 years are as follows:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Commodity	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
POL	12.76	14.03	15.43	16.98	18.68
Iron Ore	10.38	11.42	12.56	13.82	15.20
Fertilizers	0.64	0.71	0.78	0.86	0.955
Fertilizer Raw	0.352	0.38	0.42	0.46	0.51
Thermal Coal	2.19	2.41	2.66	2.87	3.04
Coking Coal	6.65	6.6	7.05	7.47	7.92
Containers	11.13	12.80	14.7	16.93	19.46
Others	10.6	11.71	12.88	14.17	15.58
TOTAL	54.70	60.06	66.48	73.56	81.35

*However, it handling or Iron Ore ana are Coal snitted to Ennore, the cargo expectations are likely to reduce.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Development of ports is an on-going process. An amount of Rs. 1782.96 crore from public funds, comprising budgetary support from the Central Government and internal and external budgetary resources (IEBR) of the ports concerned has been allocated for development of the major ports of Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Tuticorin and Ennore in the 10th Five Year Plan. Apart from the above, plans are in hand to develop facilities involving private investment to the tune of Rs. 1751 crore in these ports.

Setting up of Ship Building Hubs

3837. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up two ship building hubs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had asked the Hindustan Shipyard and Cochin shipyard to prepare plans to expand their current facilities and to set up green field building facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government is exploring the possibility of setting up two international size Shipyards in the country subject to favourable technical analysis and feasibility study.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However; a provision of Rs. 69.01 crores has been earmarked in the Annual Plan 2005-06 of Hindustan Shipyard Limited for upgradation of infrastructural facilities for shipbuilding and ship repair. Cochin Shipyard Limited is also exploring the possibility of capacity addition of the Shipyard. The Public Sector Shipyards would take decisions in their best commercial interest for their capital investments.

Land for Sethu Samudram Project

3838. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to implement the Sethu Samudram Project